

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

S E C R E T STATE 048456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: ITALIAN CONCERN RE "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE"
IN MBFR

REF: A. MBFR VIENNA 35; B. MBFR VIENNA 38

1. DURING COURSE OF MARCH 3 TOUR D'HORIZON WITH
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON RANGE OF NATO-RELATED ISSUES,
ITALIAN EMBASSY DCM TAMAGNINI EXPRESSED CONCERN,
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BASED ON REPORT FROM ITALIAN MBFR DEL, THAT US WAS

INTERESTED IN INTRODUCING SALT CONCEPT OF "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE" INTO MBFR. TAMAGNINI'S CONCERN RELATED TO US REACTION TO NEW CONCEPTS MENTIONED RECENTLY BY POLISH MBFR REP STRULAK (REFTELS). DEPTOFF ASSURED HIM THAT US HAS NOT SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION OF "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE" CONCEPT INTO MBFR AND THAT US CONTINUES TO SUPPORT PARITY IN FORM OF MANPOWER COMMON CEILING AS OUTCOME OF MBFR.

2. SINCE TAMAGNINI DID NOT APPEAR FULLY CONVERSANT WITH DETAILS OF RECENT EVENTS IN VIENNA, DEPTOFF RECOUNTED AHG OBSERVATION THAT POLISH REP STRULAK ON FEBRUARY 6 APPEARED TO BE INTRODUCING TWO NEW CONCEPTS INTO DISCUSSIONS, I.E., "EQUIVALENCE OF

OBLIGATIONS" AND "CORRELATION OF MILITARY POTENTIAL" AND THAT AHG HAD DISCERNED CERTAIN PARALLEL TO "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE" CONCEPT IN SALT. DEPTOFF TOLD TAMAGNINI THAT STRULAK'S USE OF THESE TWO TERMS BEARS WATCHING TO SEE IF EAST BEGINS TO STRESS THESE CONCEPTS AND, IF SO, WHAT IMPLICATIONS ARE FOR WEST.

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